

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-8 are pending. No amendments to the claims have been made at this time.

II. Election of Species

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected species in a divisional application.

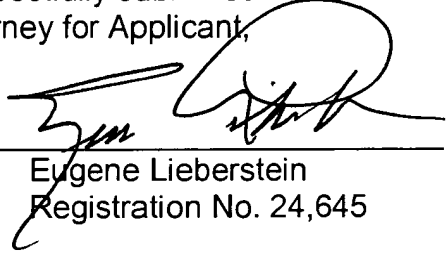
In response to the election of species, Applicants hereby elect the species of a binder which is "a sol-gel solution obtained from a siloxane precursor of formula (II)", without traverse. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 are readable on the elected species.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this reply is responsive to the outstanding Election of Species. However, should the Examiner wish to further discuss this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted
Attorney for Applicant,

Dated: 6/5, 2006

By: 
Eugene Lieberstein
Registration No. 24,645

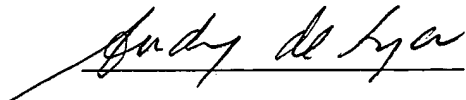
CUSTOMER NO. 01109

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this *Response to Election of Species* is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 6/6, 2006.

Audrey de Souza (Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

 (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)